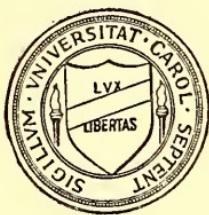


Cp970.741
S65

Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen

^Smith

The Library
of the
University of North Carolina



Collection of North Caroliniana
from the Library of
Peter Evans Smith

Cp 970.741
S65

Mrs Mrs Chas J. Shields

HISTORY OF
**SCOTLAND NECK
MOUNTED RIFLEMEN**

LATER

**Co. G. 3rd North Carolina Calvary, 41st Regiment,
Confederate States Army**

1861-1865

BY
NORFLEET S. SMITH
1st Lieut. 11th Infantry, 5th Division
World War.

The following names of members have been obtained since this article went to press: Edward L. Davis and W. B. Marks.—See page four.

CP 970.74
S6>

THE SCOTLAND NECK MOUNTED RIFLEMEN

Later Co. G, Third North Carolina Cavalry, Forty-first Regiment,
Confederate States Army---A Correction in History

As the son of a former officer of The Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, afterwards Co. G. Third North Carolina Cavalry, Forty first North Carolina Regiment, C. S. A., and as a devoted friend of the First Sergeant of this heroic band, William E. Whitmore (now the oldest living cavalryman in North Carolina) I assume it a duty to the memory of those devoted men to take issue with Mr. W. C. Allen in his publication "History of Halifax County" in which he states on page 108; "as this regiment was the first from the State and the Enfield Blues the first company from Halifax County, it will not be improper, before mentioning other companies and other Halifax County men, to follow briefly the military fortunes of this heroic body of men, who risked life, fortune, and honor in a cause they thought right."

It is not my desire, nor my intention, to detract one atom from the glory or fame of the Enfield Blues,

for they deserve all the praise and honor bestowed upon them, but I do claim for the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, that they were the first Company organized in Halifax County and that they were the first mounted troops in the State. As a basis for my claim, and as a foundation for the history of this beloved body of splendid soldiers, I am going to quote freely from a sketch written by the late John Y. Savage, at one time an officer in this Company, and from first hand information furnished by my beloved friend, and former comrade of my father, William E. Whitmore.

The Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, as they were affectionately known before they were mustered into the service of the Confederate States Army, were organized in November 1859, as an independent volunteer company, being armed and equipped by the members themselves. The first Captain was P. M. Edmondson, and the other officers were William

829435

H. Smith, first lieutenant, W. N. Step-
toe, second lieutenant (who resigned)
Atheton B. Hill, second lieutenant
and G. A. Higgs, third lieutenant.

At the time the Enfield Blues
were mustered into the service, and
when the flag was presented to them
by Miss Whitaker, the Scotland Neck
Mounted Riflemen were in active ex-
istence and ready for service, and
marched from Scotland Neck to En-
field to participate in the presenta-
tion of the flag to the Enfield Blues.

In April 1861, along with other
Companies in different parts of the
State, the Scotland Neck Mounted
Riflemen were mustered into the ser-
vice of the Confederate States Army
as the first mounted Company in the
state. A beautiful silk Confederate
battle flag, made by the devoted
hands of the ladies of the community,
was presented to the Company, the
ceremony taking place in the grove of
the home of W. R. Bond, just North of
Scotland Neck, and was witnessed by
practically the entire countryside.
It was a beautiful piece of workman-
ship, the name of Scotland Neck
Mounted Riflemen embroidered on
one side, and the seal of the State of
North Carolina painted on the other,
with a gold fringe on three sides.

Immediately after being mustered
in this Company took up its march to
Wilmington, North Carolina, receiv-
ing an ovation all along the route, and

a great reception at Wilmington,
being handsomely entertained by the
citizens. After resting up for a week
or ten days the Company went into
camp at Wrightsville Beach, being
assigned as pickets and coast guards
from Fort Fisher to Masonboro. Af-
ter completing this duty the Company
was ordered to Jacksonville, Onslow
County, to guard approaches to New
Bern, and while on that duty came
in contact with the enemy at Swans-
boro in a sharp engagement, suffer-
ing a few casualties.

The six months service, for which
this company was enlisted, having
expired, a reorganization was requir-
ed by law, and the following officers
were elected: Capt. G. A. Higgs, 1st
Lieut. B. G. Smith, 2nd Lieut. A. P.
Hyman, 3rd Lieut. J. Y. Savage.
Lieut. Hyman resigned and Dr. Al. B.
Wiggins was elected in his stead.
Soon after this election Capt. Higgs
resigned, B. G. Smith becoming Cap-
tain, J. Y. Savage, 1st Lieut., Dr. A.
S. Wiggins 2nd Lieut. and Norfleet
Smith, 3rd Lieut. Soon after this
the Company returned to Wilmington
and saw service around that section
until the spring of 1863, when they
were ordered to rejoin their regiment,
the 3rd N. C. Cavalry, stationed at
Franklin, Virginia, where they served
as pickets until the Fall of 1863,
when they were ordered to Kinston,
N. C. During the service at Kinston

quite a sharp engagement occurred in which there were several casualties, and one man captured, John L. Baker.

The company remained at Kinston, N. C., until the spring of 1864 and were then ordered back to Virginia, and became members of General Barringer's Brigade, W. H. F. Lee's Division, Army of Northern Virginia. From the time that news was received that General J. E. B. Stuart had been killed at Yellow Tavern the company saw continuous service until the end of the war. Some of the principal engagements were Centralia, Hall's Shop, White Oak Swamp, Drewry's Bluff, Ashland, Five Forks.

Of the latter engagement, Capt. W. R. Bond, sometime officer on Brigade Staff Army of Northern Virginia, says in his pamphlet "Pickett or Pettigrew"; "On the disastrous field of Five Forks our cavalry was not only holding its own, but was driving that of the enemy when the infantry gave way. This success of the cavalry on their part of the line was very nearly the last ever gained by any portion of our army. They had been fighting by squadrons and that composed of the Onslow and Halifax Companies of the 3rd North Carolina cavalry regiment had just made a successful charge, when, looking to the left, they saw the infantry retreating in disorder. The

squadron on this occasion was commanded and led by a first Lieutenant of the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, the late Norfleet Smith—a brave officer, a good citizen and a loyal friend."

About this time, or possibly before, an incident occurred which should be recorded. It was learned that the enemy had accumulated several thousand head of beef cattle at City Point near Petersburg, and General Lee ordered General Hampton to take his command, to which Co. G. 3rd N. C. Cavalry now belonged, make an attack on City Point, capture the cattle and as many prisoners as possible.

Just before daylight on the morning selected, after a forced march, the attack was made. The cavalry charged in on the enemy encampment, through the pitch-black darkness, yelling and firing pistols, taking the enemy completely by surprise, capturing about two thousand head of beef cattle, a large number of prisoners and one lone cow, which was given to General Lee as a milch cow.

Returning from the raid the Confederates were intercepted on the Boydton Plank Road by a large force of Yankees in an effort to recapture the cattle. While Gen. Hampton's Brigade engaged the enemy and held them in check, General Rosser's Brigade drove the cattle off through a by path, forced them to swim a mill

pond, successfully eluded the enemy, and saved the cattle to feed the starving army on its retreat from Petersburg.

The retreat of the starving and worn out Confederate army from Petersburg to Appomattox is a matter of history, and needs no retelling here to make it more memorable.

When General Lee had decided to surrender, the cavalry was given permission to escape, if possible, which the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, together with others, succeeded in doing. Therefore, they were not at the surrender at Appomattox, but were sent home on parole from near Danville, Va., about ten days after Lee surrendered, with instructions to report within ten days to Gen. Johnston's Army, if he had not surrendered in the meantime. However, Gen. Johnston did surrender, so the actual service of this company ended when they were sent home on parole.

Thus ended the active existence of that illustrious band, who now turned back to their homes to begin the reconstruction of the blood-stained and bleeding South. May your glory never dim, and may your sublime example live on through the endless years as an inspiration to duty, and love of country, to the youth of the South in all future generations.

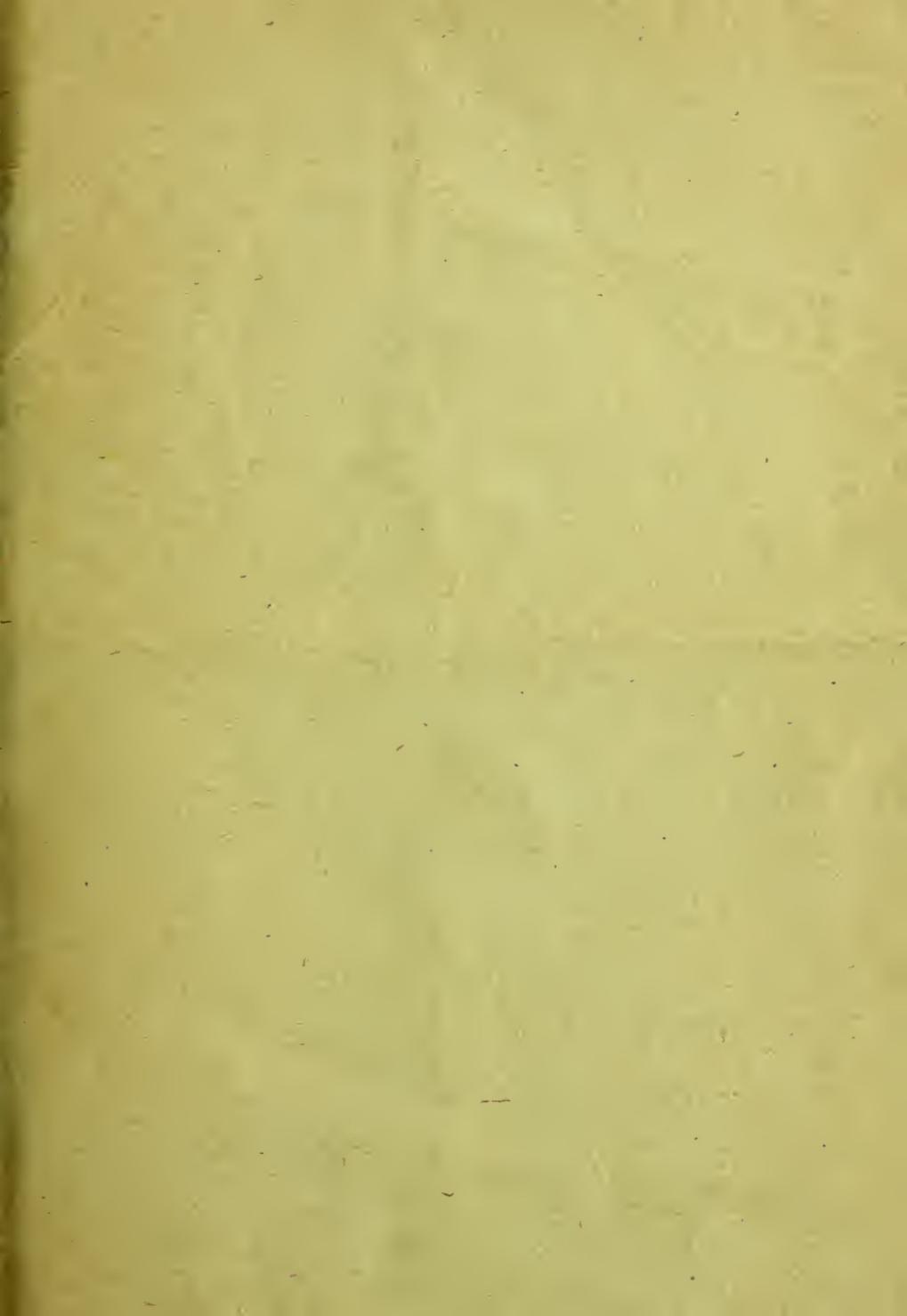
The sometime members of the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, as far

as could be furnished by First Sergeant William E. Whitmore, are as follows:

W. H. Smith, Geo. Smith, J. H. Lawrence, Jim Anthony, W. H. Shields, Jas. A. Higgs, J. Y. Savage, Dr. A. S. Wiggins, A. Hyman, Bennet and Wilson Allsbrook, George Andrews, Joe Arrington, Ben Arrington, George Harden, Whit Cotten, Jack Burgess, Mike Wilkins, Bob O'Neil, Lafayette Moore, J. E. Boyette, Tom Powell, Noah Powell, Bob Herring, W. T. Joyner, L. M. Pittman, Plummer, Branch Bros., Batchelor, Draper, Faulkner, Hall, Jenkins, Nichols, Pullin, I. H. Smith, Peyton Smith, Wright, Julian S. Carr, Elias Carr, Dowd Bros., Dr. Hodge, Dr. Hugh Davis, Cullifer, Draper, Drew, Hancock, several Hymans.

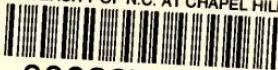
Lieut. David Camp (killed), Lieut. Frank Pender (killed), J. R. Tillery, Frank Ferrel, T. L. Savage, George French, William T. Vaughan, W. Burton White, John T. Phelps, M. G. Leggett, J. N. Phelps, Noah Biggs, E'i Biggs, John Lawrence, Whitehead, Bob Long and Robinson, John Hall, William Leggett, Joe Henry Bell.

B. D. Webb, W. E. Whitmore, Norfleet Smith, Capt. Cooper, Spier Pittman, Jimmy Shields, Thuey, Marston Bellamy, King, McMillan, Jenkins, Jones, Sanles, Williams, several Hancocks, Bill Watson, Sam Pitts, Tom White and Sledge.





UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL



00032734275

*This book must not
be taken from the
Library building.*

